

arising from such sales is but a poor recompense for the enhanced difficulty of the ascending navigation. Upon the whole, far from thinking it expedient, in this aspect, to grant the power prayed for, it is matter of regret that the privilege of *selling* waste water, restricted as it is, was granted at all to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. But for that, wastes would certainly never have been established, except at places where they were essential to the security of the canal. For health, they can never be required, on a canal having so great a lockage, and expected to be the thoroughfare of so large a commerce, as the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

In regard to the number and value of existing mills and manufactories, in the counties bordering upon the canal, your committee is not possessed of exact information. In Washington county, it is stated and believed, that the number is not less than from seventy to eighty, and in Frederick, one hundred and thirty or forty. In the four counties, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Montgomery, two millions of dollars would probably be a low estimate of the value of that species of property, not to mention a large number of convenient but unimproved sites. Competition already exists to a degree threatening disadvantage to all the various interests of the community. What valuable purpose, then, could be answered by the establishment of a long chain of new mills along the line of the canal, and at its termination in the District of Columbia.

Can a paternal Government contemplate with satisfaction an operation which must inevitably prostrate the hopes and fortunes of a large class of useful and industrious citizens? Was their ruin necessary for the public security, their devotion could not but excite commiseration. Were it likely to contribute to the general growth and prosperity of the State, the probabilities must be glowing indeed, to justify so wide an infliction of evil. But it cannot be right for the State deeply to injure her own citizens to gratify the unreasonable requests of those having no higher claims to favour than the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. D. MERRICK, Chairman.

By order,

THOS. KARNEY, Jr. Clerk.